

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03390 180622Z

21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /060 W

----- 068820

R 171046Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9697

INFO LZTSBLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 4745

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: SARDAR QAYYUM REMOVED AS AZAD KASHMIR PRESIDENT

REF: ISLAMABAD 2674

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SARDAR QAYYUM KHAN APRIL 16 WAS REMOVED FROM THE OFFICE OF AZAD KASHMIR PRESIDENT BY A NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. FOLLOWING THAT ACTION (WHICH IS OF QUESTIONABLE CONSTITUTIONALITY), ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SHEIKH MANZAR MASUD TOOK OVER AS INTERIM PRESIDENT. THE DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL COUP FOR PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO.

2. THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION WAS PASSED BY 17 MEMBERS (MORE THAN THE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY) OF THE 24 MEMBER HOUSE. IT FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF ADOPTION THE PREVIOUS DAY OF A RESOLUTION WHICH DISQUALIFIED SARDAR QAYYUM FROM CONTESTING THE AK PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 18. HOWEVER, SINCE HIS HOLDING THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT (AS AN OFFICE OF PROFIT) RESULTED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 03390 180622Z

IN THAT DISQUALIFICATION, IT MAY BE THAT THE WAY IS

AGAIN CLEAR FOR HIM TO SEEK THE PRESIDENCY.

3. QAYYUM WAS REPORTED AS MEETING APRIL 17 WITH HIS FOLLOWERS IN RAWALPINDI. HE HAS APPEALED TO THEM TO HOLD A PROTEST DAY APRIL 18 IN BOTH AZAD KASHMIR AND PAKISTAN PROTESTING AGAINST HIS "ILLEGAL AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL REMOVAL."

4. REMOVAL OF THE DOQGHTY PRESIDENT DEMONSTRATES THAT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO HAS SUCCEEDED IN FORGING A COALITION IN AZAD KASHMIR WHICH HAS ENABLED HIM BOTH TO WREST POWER FROM QAYYUM AND TO EXPAND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND HIS OWN, CONTROL OVER THE STATE (REFTEL, PARA 14). BHUTTO HAD BEEN WORKING THROUGH HIS LIEUTENANT, FEDERAL MINISTER ABDUL HAFEEZ PIRZADA, TO PUT TOGETHER A UNITED FRONT WHICH INCLUDES THE AZAD KASHMIR PEOPLE'S PARTY, PART OF THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIBERATION LEAGUE, THE AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR MUSLIM CONFERENCE, AND ONE FACTION OF THE ALL JAMMU AND KASHMIR MUSLIM CONFERENCE. THE LATTER FACTION IS LED BY QAYYUM'S ARCH RIVAL AND CANDIDATE FOR THE AK PRESIDENCY, SARDAR MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM KHAN, WHO NOW SEEMS TO BE IN A STRONG POSITION TO TAKE THAT OFFICE. THE UNITED FRONT HAS NOW ATTRACTED AWAY ENOUGH OF QAYYUM'S SUPPORTERS TO GAIN A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE ASSEMBLY.

5. WHETHER OR NOT QAYYUM DOES CHOOSE TO CONTEST THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, HIS REMOVAL JUST A MONTH BEFORE THEY ARE TO BE HELD MEANS THAT THE WILY OPERATOR WILL BE UNABLE TO USE THE WEIGHT OF HIS OFFICE TO INFLUENCE THEM. THEREFORE, SHOULD HE SO CHOOSE, WE EXPECT HIM TO FARE BADLY ON MAY 18 SINCE HIS POPULARITY WITH THE ELECTORATE ALONE CANNOT OVERCOME THE ADVANTAGES THE UNITED FRONT DERIVES FROM ITS CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS GOP SUPPORT.

6. A-55 GIVING DETAILED ACCOUNT OF AK PRE-ELECTION SITUATION, DRAFTED BEFORE LATEST ASSEMBLY MOVES, WAS POUCHED APRIL 16.

BYROADE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 03390 180622Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, POLITICAL LEADERS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA03390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750136-0046
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750443/aaaabnjk.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ISLAMABAD 2674
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SARDAR QAYYUM REMOVED AS AZAD KASHMIR PRESIDENT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PK, (QAYYUM, SARDAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006